

JPRS 68488

17 January 1977

NEAR
EAST

NORTH
AFRICA

TRANSLATIONS ON NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
No. 1602



20000317 133

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET		1. Report No. JPRS 68488	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.																																																				
4. Title and Subtitle TRANSLATIONS ON NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, No. 1602		5. Report Date 17 January 1977		6.																																																				
7. Author(s)		8. Performing Organization Rept. No.																																																						
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201		10. Project/Task/Work Unit No. 11. Contract/Grant No.																																																						
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above		13. Type of Report & Period Covered 14.																																																						
15. Supplementary Notes																																																								
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18. Availability Statement Unlimited Availability Sold by NTIS Springfield, Virginia 22151		19. Security Class (This Report) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED	21. No. of Pages 52																																																					
		20. Security Class (This Page) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED	22. Price																																																					

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IRAN

WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCTION ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENT

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Dec 76 p 19

Text During the next six years, 50 million tons of storage will be needed in the country.

Iran needs one million tons of cold storage.

The warehouse capacity needed within the next six years for storing agricultural goods and products has been estimated at 50 million tons. Approximately one million tons of this capacity exist right now in addition to the factories' warehouses. The private sector can play an effective role in reaching the above capacity for storing imported goods and domestic products, especially for preventing spoilage of agricultural products.

An informed official said in this regard that comprehensive steps must be taken on the basis of international standards, especially from the standpoint of safety and hygiene, to create storage in the above capacity so that the country's needs may be met by the end of the Sixth Plan.

Investments in this area will be encouraged and facilities will be provided for reaching the above capacity in order to persuade and encourage the private sector to establish warehouses throughout the country, especially in production and consumption centers, borders of entry and ports.

This same official said that the country's silo capacity will be increased to two million tons within the next three months. At present, the country's silo capacity exceeds 700,000 tons.

Moreover, one million tons of cold storage are needed to prevent spoilage, especially of agricultural products and by-products, and this capacity will be reached by the end of the Sixth Development Plan with the establishment of numerous cold storage plants throughout the country. At present, the country's cold storage capacity is 150,000 tons, and a leasing contract has been signed with the private sector for creating new cold storage facilities up to 250,000 tons capacity. These cold storage facilities gradually will become ready for use by the end of next year.

IRAN

ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCES TO BE FORMED

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Dec 76 p 24

Text A new organization is being formed called "The Organization for the Development and Improvement of Regions," which will bring together all of the country's economic and production activities on the level of each of the provinces.

The structure of this organization was drawn up following the adoption of the decision pertaining to the implementation of the decentralization programs and, except for the organizations responsible for political-military, security and judicial affairs, which, in fact, are responsible for the government's special jurisdiction actions in national and world policy, the rest of the state organizations will be centralized in this organization. In each of the organizations for regional development and improvement, with attention to the view of the responsible ministers, some of the various activities of those ministries will be centralized in this organization, and this organization will assume responsibility on the regional level for the country's economic and production activities.

Structure For Improvement of Regions

The organizations which will be included in the Organization for the Development and Expansion of Regions are responsible for the activities which pertain solely to the country's economic development and which, because of the nature of the activity, ought to be included in a decentralized but harmonious manner in the structure of the organizations for the development and improvement of the regions. The ministries which, up to now, will participate in these organizations for coordinating activity consist of: the Ministry of Agriculture (after the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Affairs merges with this ministry), the Ministry of Industry and Mines, the Ministry of Roads, the Ministry of Power, the Ministry of Housing and Town Planning, the Plan and Budget Organization and several other ministries whose type of activity and merger with the organizations for development and improvement of regions have not yet been determined.

The organizations for the development and improvement of regions on the provincial level will function under the supervision of the governors-general.

Objective

Our correspondent reports that the objective in forming the organizations for the development and improvement of the regions is to facilitate concentrated state planning of the decentralization policy actions in implementation of the programs, to strengthen the foundations of regional development and improvement and to unify command on executive levels, which will provide full coordination among the programs pertaining to economic and social development and maximum exploitation of land and natural resources.

The structure of the Organization for the Development and Improvement of Regions consists of the High Council, the Board of Directors and the Managing Director. The members of the High Council will be the Minister of Interior, Minister of Housing and Town Planning, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Roads, the Director of the Plan and Budget Organization and other ministers whose ministries have activities which will be launched within this organization.

The chairmanship of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Regional Development and Improvement will also be the responsibility of the governor-general, and one person from each ministry, as a member of the Board of Directors, will be responsible for activities relating to his unit but this member will be responsible to the Organization for the Development and Improvement of Regions, not to his ministry.

The Managing Director of the Organization for the Development and Improvement of Regions Organization will be selected by one of the responsible ministers who has greater responsibility for improvement of the region.

In addition to the governor-general, who will be chairman of the Board of Directors, and the Managing Director, water, roads, agriculture, reconstruction, and urban improvement planning directors and other directors belonging to ministries whose ministers are members of the High Council will have membership in the organizations for the development and improvement of regions.

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IRAN

FIRST EXPORT COMPANY TO BE ESTABLISHED

Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 76 p 3

[Text] An export company with 100 million rials capital is about to be established with the joint participation of the private sector and the government.

More than 51 percent of the shares of this company, which in the future will play an effective role in the export of goods manufactured in Iran, especially traditional goods, belong to the private sector and the rest of the shares belong to several state organizations and corporations. The Iran Chamber of Commerce is playing an important role in establishing this company which, in fact, is the first export company, and it has invested directly in it. The Iran Chamber of Commerce shares will be turned over to the private sector after a profit is assured.

New Momentum In Export Affairs

Most of the government's shares in this company belong to the Exports Development Center, the Agricultural Development Bank and the Corporation for the Expansion of Trade Services.

For some time now the Exports Development Center has had a study underway for new momentum in export affairs and for the establishment of export companies with the help of the private sector, especially the major exporters who are now playing an effective role in the export of Iranian goods and products, and the first of those companies is about to be formed with the cooperation and investment of these same groups. The cooperative companies which are active in the private sector are among the principal investors in the aforementioned company. With the commencement of this company's operations and based on the program being drawn up for its activities, numerous plans which have been considered in various fields for encouraging exports will be launched by this company and carried out in due time in order that a new momentum may take place regarding the country's exports.

IRAN

60,000 TONS OF RICE IMPORTED

Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 76 p 4

Text Sixty thousand tons of imported rice have arrived in the ports of the south. Some of the imported rice has been transported to Teheran after being off-loaded. This rice was transported to Iran by two ships, and 350,000 tons of rice are to be imported by the end of this year.

The Corporation for the Expansion of Trade Services announced today that most of the 60,000 tons of rice which has arrived was produced by south-east Asian countries and therefore the method of cooking it differs from the method used for rice imported from America and Iranian rice. The imported rice must be soaked in cold water and salt for one hour prior to cooking. Then, to cook it, boil it in boiling water and salt for 15 minutes and then steam it. According to an official of the Corporation for the Expansion of Trade Services, with this method, the imported rice will rival the best type of rice.

In order to cook domestic rice, usually it is soaked in cold water and salt for three days prior to cooking. If this method of cooking is used for the imported rice, the rice will not cook properly and will not be appetizing.

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IRAN

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION INCREASED

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 76 p 19

Text During the first six months of this year, 7.378 billion kilowatt hours of electrical energy were generated in the country, and this figure represents a growth of 9.9 percent in comparison with the production figure for the first six months of last year (6.714 billion kilowatt hours).

Of the 7.378 billion kilowatt hours of energy generated during the first half of this year, approximately 34.3 percent was generated by water power plants. Because in the second quarter of the year water energy production declined 6.6 percent because of the decline in the water stores of the dams, in total, the percent of water energy generated, which in the first quarter of this year was 40.9 percent, amounted to 34.3 percent in the second quarter and this decline will continue until next spring. Moreover, 54.1 percent was generated by steam power plants and 11.6 percent was generated by gas and diesel power plants, and these figures, too, represent a production increase. On the whole, more than half of the energy generated during the first half of this year was generated by steam power plants. The energy generated by water power plants in the first six months of this year amounted to 2.527 billion kilowatt hours, an increase of approximately 25.6 percent compared to the figure for the same period last year (2.013 billion kilowatt hours). Moreover the energy generated by the thermal power plants, amounting to 4.850 billion kilowatt hours, represents a growth of 3.2 percent compared to the energy generated by thermal power plants during the first six months of last year (4.701 billion kilowatt hours).

Production Capacity

The installed capacity of the power plants under the management of the Ministry of Power at the end of the month of Shahrivar 2535 22 September 1976

amounted to 3.688 million kilowatt hours, and the exploitable power of the power plants for the first six months of 2535 [21 March-22 September 1976] amounted to 2.722 million kilowatt hours compared to the figure for the same period last year (2.391 million kilowatt hours). Thus, the exploitable power of the power plants has increased 13.3 percent.

Of the 2.722 million kilowatt hours of exploitable power of the power plants under the management of the Ministry of Power, approximately 1.865 million kilowatt hours were exploited within the country's interconnected electrical system and 857,000 kilowatt hours were exploited outside of the interconnected system.

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IRAN

BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT AMOUNTS TO 633 BILLION RIALS

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 76 p 19

Text Based on the statistics of the Iran Customs Department, during eight months of this year, approximately 595,000 tons of goods valued at 25 billion rials were exported abroad compared to 9,873 million tons of imported goods valued at 657.4 billion rials. Based on these same statistics, during the first eight months of last year, the total amount of imports from abroad was 7,7735 million tons of goods valued at 480 billion rials, and the quantity of non-oil goods exported during this same period amounted to 633,000 tons valued at 23.5 billion rials. In other words, comparing the eight months of this year with the same period last year, approximately 1.6 billion rials more of non-oil goods were exported abroad this year. And comparing the eight months of this year with the same period last year, approximately 177.3 billion rials more of goods were imported to Iran from various countries this year. Consequently, Iran's balance of trade deficit during the first eight months of this year amounted to 633.3 billion rials.

After oil, the most important of Iran's exported goods during eight months of this year consist of: hand-woven rugs - 4499 tons exported at a value of 4226 million rials; cotton - approximately 50,000 tons exported at a value of nearly 404 million rials; metal ores - 185,000 tons exported at a value of 1567.4 million rials; dried fruits - 19,000 tons exported at a value of 1498 million rials; transport equipment - 2,388 tons exported at a value of 1310 million rials; and various types of skins - approximately 13,000 tons exported at a value of 1287 million rials.

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IRAN

BRIEFS

EARTHQUAKE -- Tabriz, ETELA'AT correspondent -- At 0730 hours today a relatively strong earthquake shook the areas of Maku and Siyah Cheshmeh; but, fortunately, it was not accompanied by personal injuries and property damage. Text Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 76 p 4

ISRAEL

ISRAELI AIR FORCE ARMS FOR FUTURE

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 11 Dec 76 p 3

[Text] Jerusalem, 9 December (by P. F.)--The official word is that in the very near future the first F-15 fighter planes will arrive from the United States "somewhere in Israel." In the period ending in 1982, the Israeli Air Force will get 25 McDonnell-Douglas F-15 Eagles at 23 million dollars each. Altogether this will cost Israel 625 million dollars--5 percent of a whole year's gross national profit. The Israeli command intends to use the Eagle as a long arm beyond a range of 2,000 kilometers. The plane--an almost intolerable financial burden for a small country--is to reach key strategic locations such as Bab al Mandeb on the Red Sea without refueling, carrying even heavier bomb loads than the F-4 Phantom. Theoretically, like the Phantom, the Eagle can also be nuclear-equipped. Together with the much less expensive F-16, which the United States last week agreed in principle to supply, it will form the backbone of the Israeli Air Force in the eighties.

Mark of Confidence in Pilots

Delivery of the first F-15 will represent an important military technological certificate for Israeli pilots and a political success of the Rabin government. After the Yom Kippur War, in which Israel lost about 110 fighter planes--mostly by hits of enemy SAM's--critics here also warned against further expensive plane purchases. Voices were raised in the ground forces for spending the big money needed for Eagles for ground weapons instead. In 1974 the question was discussed as to whether it was not better to lower the air force budget in favor of Israeli Hawk ground-to-air guided missiles. All the croakers' voices notwithstanding, the Cabinet and General Staff decided in favor of the planes, continuing to place their confidence in their superiority--not least because of the outstanding training of the pilots. About the detailed weaponry, Jerusalem and Washington bargained until October this year, when shortly before the elections President Ford agreed to supply BLU-27 multiple bombs to the Israelis.

Political Factors

In its Israeli version, the F-15 carries up to 7 tons of laser and infrared bombs. For air combat, it is equipped with four Sparrow and four Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. A 20-mm gun of the M61-A1 type is built in. The Eagle's maximum speed is 2.52 Mach, and it can climb to 23,000 meters. Israeli pilots who have flown the F-15 in the United States consider it superior to any other fighter plane in the world. In their opinion, it cannot be intercepted by any other plane. The Israeli F-15's are equipped with the Hughes radar system, which fixes targets up to 150 kilometers. For the moment it is uncertain whether McDonnell-Douglas will be permitted to supply all electronic defense weapons. Above all, the Israelis would very much like to have weapons against Soviet air defense missiles, but evidently this is a delicate political matter. There was less opposition than expected to the supply of the planes as a result of the fact that the Eagle can also carry atom bombs over a distance of more than 2,000 kilometers.

Apart from Israel, between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean McDonnell-Douglas' list of customers for F-15's contains only Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Iranians, who already have a squadron of F-14's, have ordered 41 F-15's. In terms of training, introduction of the F-15 has represented a huge step for Saudi Arabia. In addition, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany have expressed interest in the Eagle.

Substitution for Phantom

Procurement of the F-16 will cost Israel "only" about 8.5 million dollars a plane. Defense Minister Peres these days is clarifying such details as the amounts and mode of delivery in the United States. The Israelis would like to get 250 F-16's, to be delivered starting in 1977. It would like to manufacture individual systems itself and to do the final assembly in Tel Aviv. Peres is supposed to try to obtain favorable conditions, but no binding agreements are expected before President Carter takes office on 20 January. The Israeli Air Force is counting for sure on at least 200 F-16's from the end of the seventies. In view of the unemployment in the United States, there is little prospect of coproduction. Thus the F-16 purchase will amount to more than 2 billion dollars in state funds. This corresponds to 50 percent of the defense expenditures for the current 1966-1967 fiscal year or to one-sixth of the annual gross national product.

In the early eighties, the F-16 is to supplant the Phantom as the principal fighter bomber in the Israeli Air Force. At the end of 1976, it can put into action about 200 F-4's, 250 A-4 Skyhawks, 50 Mirage-3's and more than 100 domestic-manufacture Kvis. The order of battle is divided into six Phantom, six Skyhawk and three Mirage and Kvir squadrons. Ready for action in addition are a RF-4E Reconnaissance Squadron, about 130 helicopters and the B-707 and C-130 transport planes which made the difference in the Entebbe operation.

ISRAEL

MORE MINISTRIES MOVE TO JERUSALEM

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Dec 76 p 2

[Text] A proposal to begin a staggered transfer to Jerusalem next year of all Government ministries which still have their headquarters in Tel Aviv, except Defence, was approved yesterday by the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem.

The offices moving to the capital are to be housed initially in available existing premises, while the construction of permanent facilities gets under way.

Some 4,000 jobs are expected to be transferred to Jerusalem in this fashion. About 1,500 employees are expected to move from Tel Aviv. The rest of the jobs will be filled by Jerusalemites. Among the offices affected are the Ministries of Health, Transportation, the Public Works Department and the Government Press Office.

The committee estimated that 30,000 square metres of floor space was available in Jerusalem as temporary quarters. It said construction has started on 12,000 square metres of office space near National Police Headquarters in Sheikh Jarrah.

The committee's chairman, Justice Minister Haim Zadok, who initiated the proposal, said that Government offices must be located in the capital. He said the operation will help create job opportunities in Jerusalem and increase Government efficiency by centralizing operations.

CSO: 4820

LIBYA

JALLUD SPEAKS AT DINNER BANQUET IN HONOR OF ZHIVKOV

Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 25 Dec 76 pp 1,5 AU

[Toast proposed by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, prime minister of the Libyan Arab Republic, at a dinner banquet given in honor of Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic, in Tripoli on 23 December 1976]

[Text] On behalf of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Revolutionary Command Council and the Libyan Arab people, we welcome Comrade Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic and first secretary of the BCP Central Committee, and in him we welcome the fighter and leader of the Bulgarian people and a dear friend who is visiting the Libyan Arab Republic.

Your visit to the Libyan Arab Republic is an important factor in the development of relations between our two countries, for the consolidation of relations between the Arab nation and the socialist states. Your visit to our country gives us the opportunity to talk to you and to your assistants on the problems of cooperation between our two countries as well as on topical international problems which mankind is facing and on questions of the peoples' struggle, questions which are attracting universal attention.

Since the 1 September 1969 revolution the relations between our two countries have been consolidated--the relations between the Libyan Arab Republic [and the Bulgarian People's Republic] and the Libyan Arab people and the Bulgarian people--as well as the relations with the socialist community. Your visit, Comrade Zhivkov, will confirm the common convictions and will give a strong impetus to cooperation between our two countries in the interest of the peoples struggling for their freedom.

The relations of the Arab and Islamic world with the friendly Bulgarian people go back far into the past. This fact is confirmed by the existence of more than 800,000 Moslems in Bulgaria, as well as by the fact that the Bulgarian language contains many Arab words, as well as by our common struggle stemming from our historical relations.

Our two peoples, who after the revolution resumed their rights of determining their own destinies, are contributing today to the victory of the peoples fighting for freedom, to the opposition against neocolonialism, reaction and Zionism. Our relations are based on our historical and cultural relations, but also on our common positions in the struggle. Just as the cause of freedom was victorious in Europe, in Southeast Europe, and the peoples learned to believe in socialism, thus the Arab nation once more took up the path of revolution in order to achieve its political and social freedom.

The beginning of friendship between the Arab nation and the states belonging to the socialist community was laid down by the leader Gamal 'Abd an-Nasir, while the great revolution of 1 September 1969 and the Libyan Arab people opened new prospects in the development of these relations of friendship, aimed at consolidating cooperation in our joint struggle against imperialism, the monopolies, reaction, Zionism and racism. This struggle is based on our common interests and convictions.

I would like to confirm on this occasion that it is not necessity that makes us develop our relations with the socialist states and with Bulgaria. We are guided by the serious and sincere confidence that a basis exists and common convictions exist for the development of this friendship and for our joint struggle. We cannot deny that the Arab nation today is subjected to the attacks of imperialism, reaction and Zionism. This question is of primary importance for us, but it does not mean that we are transforming it into an exchange currency and that it should be the motive for establishing relations with these peoples and states.

We are grateful that the socialist countries are standing side by side with the Arab nation and with the people of Palestine in the struggle for returning these people to their own native land and for the full liberation of the territory of Palestine. We cannot deny the role of the friends, but I think that the solution to this problem depends on how strongly the Arabs hold their weapons. We are trying to persuade our friends of our point of view, of the fact that this problem is not a question of borders, but a problem of existence, the problem of the driving out of a people from their native soil. We would like to confirm that this problem is of decisive importance for the Arab nation. The Arab nation cannot be deceived by political games and conferences like the Geneva conference and other similar conferences, and no speculation can be allowed with this question. We cannot accept the imposing of Israel as an existing reality, and we cannot accept speculations on this question either.

The Geneva conference was perhaps suitable for stopping the war in Vietnam and for conducting negotiations on these questions. However, the Palestinian question differs entirely from all political problems which the world has faced hitherto, since it concerns the existence of an entire people. If we go to the Geneva conference or we accept negotiations, this would mean that we are acknowledging either of two principles--the occupation of a territory and its retention, or the occupation of a territory for the purpose of dictating conditions. These two principles should not become legalized in international policy.

As to the question of peace and security in the world, we are heralds of peace. However, I share the opinion expressed by our guest that there can be no peace at all costs. Peace and security are indivisible. It is true that, if Europe becomes isolated from nuclear weapons, opportunities for greater sources of energy would be created on that continent. However, peace cannot be attained in Europe and it cannot be transformed into a real factor without the achieving of peace in all areas of the world. Of course, we insist upon peace, our Islamic religion also calls for peace. Our religion, however, does not call for a peace achieved at the expense of justice; there can be no peace based on deception, or peace imposed by force. What is necessary is a peace that the people are convinced is just. Peace, security, and detente should not impede the national liberation movements and the peoples fighting for their freedom; they should not prevent these peoples from exercising their rights of being the masters of their own resources; they should not prevent them from liberating their own territories and from liquidating racism and Zionism. Nothing should prevent the peoples from fighting for justice and for their return to their homes and to their own land. Peace cannot be achieved unless the peoples definitely and fully achieve their freedom--political, economic, social and cultural.

The imperialist countries are now taking advantage of the process of detente and of false peace slogans. They are taking advantage of this atmosphere in order to threaten the peoples of the Third World. A small group of peoples in the Third World tried to become masters of their national wealth and resources; they tried to set just prices for their own raw materials, and even lower prices than justified. This was the group of oil exporting countries, which is now subjected to threats. The peoples, who have come near their political freedom, with the exception of the Palestinian people and the peoples of South Africa, have now entered the stage of the struggle for economic and social independence. There can be no political independence without economic and social independence.

The monopolist states are responsible for the present deterioration of the economic situation in the world, for the economic crisis. This situation can be blamed not on the oil exporting countries or other countries producing raw materials. The radical solution of the problem can be achieved only by revising the presently existing economic and financial order in the world and by creating an economic order that permits the peoples of the Third World (who represent the majority) to assume their role in this world order, to have their own place in the financial and monetary organizations and to change from owners and exporters of raw materials into industrialized countries and partners of the industrial states.

The diseases and shortcomings of the Western economy, of the economy of developed Western countries, inflation, social problems and increase of prices--all these are problems which are to the detriment of the developing countries. We in the Libyan Arab Republic are suffering from a 40-percent annual increase of our expenditures, because of these shortcomings, expenditures which we are forced to cover by our incomes in implementing our development plans. The situation goes so far that the developing countries are

Not able to determine exact indexes for their plans because of the shortcomings of the Western economy; the oil exporting countries did not increase their prices for two years and tried to reach an agreement with the industrial countries, so that the "north-south" conference might be successful and so that the industrial countries might heal the shortcomings of their economy, so that they might master inflation and stop the increase of prices varying between 30 and 40 percent. However, we, the oil exporting countries, had to pay the price for the incapacity of the Western countries to improve their situation. After two years, the majority of oil exporting countries decided to increase their prices by a small percentage, only by 10 percent. The industrial countries reacted and decided to impose their will by force upon the weaker ones. We think that the "north-south" conference should become a worldwide conference, in which all peoples should participate, including the peoples of the socialist countries because they have economic relations both with the Western states and with the countries of the Third World. The creation of a just economy which will allow the poor, who are the majority, to assume their role in this universal order, will lead to the utilization of unemployed human resources in the universal economy. This is the only way to settle the economic problems caused by the Western states, under which the whole world is suffering. We have become used to the threats of the West; they will not frighten us in the future. We are telling the Western countries: do not let yourselves be carried away! If we look at oil prices, we can say that they are not adequate to the 30- to 40- percent increase of prices of industrial goods exported by the West.

I say that threats do not frighten us. The only way is to liquidate inflation and to create a just universal economy. I repeat--we cannot be the victims of disasters caused by others.

In conclusion we confirm that we stand entirely on the side of the national liberation movements and of the peoples fighting for their freedom, that we unshakably stand at the side of the peoples on the African continent, at the side of the peoples of South Africa. We are with those who are holding the guns, because racism in Palestine, South Africa, and Zimbabwe understands only one language, the language of guns.

We once more stress our attention to your visit and our resolve to make this visit successful. The negotiations we conducted yesterday with Comrade Colonel al-Qadhdhafi conform with the aspirations of both the Libyan Arab People and of the Bulgarian people and will bring about positive results in the interest of the fighting peoples.

Peace to you!

CSO: 2200

SAUDI ARABIA

TRANSPORT REGULATION, BRIDGE TO BAHRAIN STILL BEING STUDIED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Oct 76 p 1

Text His Highness Communications Minister Shaykh Husayn al-Mansuri spoke to 'UKAZ about the future of land and maritime transport in the kingdom, and the proposed bridge which will connect Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. His Highness also discussed the proposed railroad to connect the western, central and eastern districts.

His Highness responded to a question about the stages through which the special studies for drawing up land and maritime transport statutes and regulations have passed, and about his visions of the future of transport, saying, "A cabinet device has been issued establishing an agency to be responsible for supervising the regulation of transport throughout the kingdom, with the exception of air transport. This agency will be subordinate to the Communications Ministry.

"In the ministry's budget for this year, the positions needed to establish a general transport department have been entered; subordinate to this department will be departments for maritime transport, rail transport, road transport, economic and technical studies, statistics, planning and follow-up.

"The ministry has studied the jurisdictions of the transport agency, including the following:

1. Planning the various activities of the transport sector, and linking it up with the kingdom's general economic and social plan, on the basis of transport demand and requirements;
2. Supervising, directing and coordinating the various means of transport, preventing duplication of transport services, and making use of each means in accordance with its special features and characteristics, so as to achieve the highest production efficiency;

3. Regulating and determining the appropriate transport tariff for each means of transport, according to the type of commodity and the distance it is transported. It will be permissible to grant transport companies concessions and licenses for the pursuit of commodity and passenger transport operations;

4. Regulating computation of and collection of statistics on goods transported by the various means of transport in and out of the country (imports and exports);

5. Preparing international transport agreements between the kingdom and neighboring countries; and

6. Preparing economic and technical studies of the various activities of the transport sector, in order to adapt to the rapid applied and technological progress in the transport industry."

With reference to the date for the ministry's resumption of implementation of the al-Khubar-Bahrain bridge project, His Highness said, "The fact is, everything pertaining to the implementation of the bridge project connecting the kingdom with Bahrain, cannot make progress until research and continuing studies on the matter resume; it is expected that the study will be finished soon. After it is discussed and approved, construction will begin, God willing, given the fact that His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince are very concerned with carrying out the project, and that their orders have called for its speedy implementation."

In response to a question about the recurring news about linking the western, central and eastern districts by a rail line, His Highness Shaykh Husayn al-Mansuri explained the ministry's point of view on this matter as follows: "The central and eastern districts are connected by a rail line, as is known. What is now being done is a study on developing this line and, at the same time, a study on extending it to other parts of the kingdom should it be found that economic advantage would accrue to the country from that, within the framework of the general transport plan."

8559
CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

STREAMLINED PROCEDURES SIMPLIFY JIDDAH PORT CUSTOMS WORK

Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 28 Oct 76 p 3

Interview with Western District Customs Secretary Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid Maghribi, by 'Abdallah al-Nuwaysir

Text The ports have a major significance, not just for the economic sphere but for the development plans as well, since the ports are the vital arteries for supplying the projects. The customs offices are no less important, since obstruction of the customs and clearing procedures leads to the freezing of funds and a rise in prices, by virtue of the fees levied on the goods for the hours of delays, the spoilage of some of the goods, and so forth. The customs offices have started following a new program aimed at facilitating customs procedures and reducing, as far as possible, the complicated customs steps in such a way as to not conflict with the importance of those procedures. In order to ascertain the details, we met with Western District Customs Secretary Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid Maghribi, who spoke to us about those procedures, the reasons for the obstruction of some of them and the successful solutions.

At the beginning, I asked Mr al-Maghribi, "What improvements have been introduced into the port customs services, especially with respect to customs clearing procedures?"

He said, "The customs procedures now in effect at the Jiddah Port customs office are much more advanced than those followed at many port customs offices in other advanced nations. They can be summarized as follows:

1. At every warehouse there is a complete customs group which carries out customs transactions from start to finish, including registering and numbering the imports, inspecting and evaluating them and ascertaining the fees. These three operations are performed by one employee, to save time, and then the fees are levied by the group fund itself. The approval of the clearing by the chief inspector of the whole group is done in one place inside the warehouse where the goods are.

Therefore, it is obvious that the customs procedures are shortened and the signatures are reduced as much as possible, in such a manner that there is no disturbance of the proper course of work.

Thus the customs steps have come to consist of four steps and four signatures, whereas in the past the transaction had passed through 20 signatures.

2. The procedures have been simplified so that duties can be ascertained on the bills of lading before unloading many imports such as foodstuffs, reinforcing iron and cement. The clearance of these consignments upon unloading is not delayed, and permission is given to ship them out of the port as soon as samples are satisfactorily taken. Care is taken to not dispose of the commodity until the result of the analysis of their suitability for consumption comes in.

3. The procedures can be completed on the bills of lading, and the duties figured before unloading the goods, with respect to consignments of more than 30 automobiles. Their clearing can be approved after they are inspected upon unloading, so that they can be removed from the port immediately and not stay at the customs office.

4. In case the bills of lading have not arrived, the procedures can be completed and the duties determined on the basis of estimating the customs according to the inspection and the sample price. Or, they can be definitely collected should the shipment's specifications be obvious and its value is stated in writing either from a bank or in a letter of credit, provided that care is taken to present the bills of lading as soon as they arrive.

5. The completion of procedures for goods imported on trailer trucks or in containerized shipments in particular can be facilitated, permitting their immediate clearance after they are superficially inspected and sealed with a customs seal. Their inspection by a committee can be completed at the merchant's warehouses.

"Statistical data shows the true nature of customs work and its relationship to the port administration, for we show the amounts unloaded by that port administration and the amounts on which customs procedures are carried out and which are cleared by customs. These figures indicate the convenience and ease of the customs procedures.

"First, the quantity of goods unloaded from January to July 1976 amounted to 2.3 million tons, and the quantity of goods on which customs procedures were carried out and which were cleared during this period amounted to 2.302 million tons.

"Second, with respect to operations during July 1976, a total of 413,978 tons of goods were unloaded, a total of 384,237 tons were cleared by customs, the average daily unloading was 13,799 tons, and the average daily clearing was 12,808 tons. So 93 percent of the unloaded goods were cleared."

I said to him, "The customs office is not connected with the State Ports Organization, as is well-known by many people. So what authority directly links the customs office with the port?"

He said, "The port customs is connected to the Western District Customs Secretariat, which in turn is connected to the State Customs Administration in Riyadh, subordinate to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. As for the port administration, it is subordinate to the State Port Administration."

I said, "There have been some complications in the customs clearing procedures, most of which are due to two reasons: many persons' lack of knowledge and familiarity with customs procedures, and the complication of the procedures by some employees. For example, numerous groups handle customs clearing--state clearers, private clearers and deputies from organizations, companies and other official agencies. As for the first group, there are no complications, in view of the fact that they have familiarity, knowledge, and awareness of customs work. They are the ones who have long-standing offices in this field. The same goes for the second group, for they cannot pursue customs work until they are examined and given a special license. They carry out the procedures in the name of their subordinate agencies.

"The unfamiliarity with customs work is limited to deputies of companies and organizations, especially in view of the fact that they are new to customs work and are unaware of the way to carry out customs procedures. The customs office is helping to direct them in the proper, correct procedures and to guide them in the steps they must follow, as well as answering any questions.

"The customs office also holds regular study groups and meetings with agencies connected with customs work, such as the clearers, the shipping companies, merchants, the chamber of commerce, and the port administration, to put a stop to the obstacles hindering the work, to consult with them in order to arrive at the best, soundest solutions for the proper course of the facility's work, and to follow up the implementation of the recommendations arrived at, be these recommendations from the customs office or from other agencies."

8559
CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

HIGHER GROWTH RATE SOUGHT THROUGH MANPOWER, SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 30 Oct 76 p 6

Text The kingdom's general plan is aimed at expediting the exploitation of all the kingdom's human and natural resources in an effective manner, to achieve a higher rate of economic growth and to lessen the kingdom's dependence on a single, exhaustible source of income--oil.

The state is aware that achieving this goal necessarily requires the diversification of the production base, through encouraging expansion in the agriculture, industry and mining sectors, as well as concentrating in particular on the petrochemicals and mining industries, so that the kingdom may enjoy relative advantages compared with those of other states.

The state is constantly aiming at encouraging private capitalists to expand their activities through providing adequate facilities and incentives to get them started.

The state also aims at giving all the citizens the opportunity to obtain education and training on all levels, and, at the same time, to give the citizen health protection and the chance to obtain medical care anywhere in the kingdom.

The various types of education and training are provided free of charge, and both are now witnessing increased expansion and improvement of their overall quality. Their goals are not restricted to just literacy courses and encouraging education in general, but also extend to encouraging an interest in studying and mastering new skills, supporting research, new technical production methods and means of distribution, and striving for a spirit of serious, noble work.

In order to fully benefit from manpower resources, the kingdom has created a healthy social environment and the facilities which lead to an improvement in the individual's health and efficiency and to the provision of free medical services throughout the kingdom, by building more hospitals,

clinics and health centers equipped with all the necessities. In addition to all of that, the kingdom has created an economic climate which helps the individual obtain work in keeping with his abilities and capacities. The kingdom has given all its people every opportunity to gain a sure means of livelihood, to earn his daily bread, and to help build his country.

Development of social services has taken place in such a manner as to guarantee that every group or individual inhabitant of the society, no matter how disagreeable his circumstances, enjoys a minimum level of decent living, while keeping the standards of living above the minimum as a reward to the individual for his efforts and accomplishments. In order to achieve this goal, the state is working to expand and further its social programs in the following ways:

1. Providing essential commodities, especially foodstuffs, at stable, sensible prices, and providing subsidies for them if necessary, taking into consideration the effects that would have on the possible production of foodstuffs;
2. Providing opportunities for free education at all levels, creating a healthy, sanitary environment, and providing free medical treatment facilities;
3. Ensuring suitable housing for persons of low income by means of government-built housing projects, distributing the housing according to easy terms, and encouraging building and construction by other groups by granting them interest-free loans and providing assistance for them. The ultimate goal is for every Saudi family to own its own home;
4. Expanding the scope of social insurance coverage and providing other benefits and assistance to the indigent; and
5. Providing interest-free loans and credit to low-income persons suffering from financial difficulties and to small investors and businessmen. The state is continuing to expand the construction and improvement of basic physical equipment, as well as means of communication, and to improve facilities so as to guarantee the achievement of the economic and social goals on which this equipment depends.

The kingdom's economic system is based on the principle of economic freedom, whereby the state leaves a major part of commodity production and distribution and services to individuals and groups. At the same time, the state, within the context of this system's principle, continues to encourage the private sector to play a basic role in expediting the country's growth and development.

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CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN EMPLOYEES WITHHOLDING TRADE SECRETS FROM SAUDI PERSONNEL

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 1 Nov 76 p 2

[Article by 'Abdallah al-'Abbasi]

[Text] The five-year labor plan calls for Saudizing those positions still held by non-Saudis, so that these positions can become filled by Saudis within a reasonable period of time. Obviously, administrative positions are not as much of a problem as technological or technical positions, which require the acquisition of certain skills in order to fill them. When we look at the universities we have, and the numbers of students acquiring knowledge outside the kingdom, we find that filling these positions in less time than that called for in the plan is quite possible. However, it is also evident that the Saudis working with foreigners in these fields suffer from the fact that these foreign personnel are making every effort to conceal many of the secrets of technological or technical work from the Saudi personnel, so that these personnel cannot become familiar with the hidden facts and secrets of this work.

This has been observed in the computer field by specialized agencies. It is greatly to be hoped that the Planning Ministry will adopt the appropriate steps in cooperation with the various ministries and government authorities to carry out the plan, by placing conditions in contracts for contractual employees providing, firstly, that the Saudi personnel become capable of performing the job within the time span set by the contract. Without this, we will find ourselves at the mercy of all those people for many years to come, and we need to shorten this time as much as possible.

8559
CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

AMERICA SEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

Jiddah LA-MADINAH in Arabic 2 Nov 76 pp 12, 5

[Article by Muhammad Salah-al-Din: "The Nuclear Terror"]

[Text] The day, 2 years ago, that India exploded its first nuclear bomb, the United States of America was not as upset as it was the day Pakistan came to an agreement with France to buy two atomic reactors for peaceful purposes, to the point where both France and Pakistan were forced to bring to the attention of the American authorities the fact that they were two independent, sovereign states and that therefore such intervention in their affairs, as represented by the American attempt to abolish the agreement, was not correct and that the exertion of such influence on them was not permissible.

In another context, the American authorities were given another slap in the face in this respect by an American university student who announced his success in making an atomic bomb from the information available in American scientific reference works on this subject, and from the basic raw materials for making a bomb which the student was able to get in one way or another. The American scientists who inspected the student's bomb had no comment other than that the means of detonation used by the student was technologically backward but that otherwise it was an atomic bomb which without a doubt could be used.

Acquiring the technology for making an atomic bomb is also not considered a difficult matter nowadays, since there are nations responsible for this dangerous proliferation of the atomic terror, which constitutes a serious threat to human life. In the forefront of these responsible nations stands the United States of America, whose official records confirm America's significant participation in leaking or exporting the technology and the atomic raw materials, which in recent years have amounted to enough plutonium alone to make 200 atomic bombs.

So why the outcry? and the uprising and the indignation? and all the decisive addresses delivered by Mr Kissinger here and there?

The Western allies of the United States of America say that the reason is purely commercial. The Americans want to monopolize this scarce, expensive, valuable commodity. European sources have presented statistics which prove that America is primarily responsible for the spread of the nuclear terror throughout the world.

But we want to believe in the noble humane impulses and the desire for human civilization which was affirmed by President Ford when he announced a new American plan to ensure that atomic materials would not spread to more nations of the world. Wanting to be really practical, we ask the American president what opportunity is there for this policy to succeed in a world bursting with problems and sinking under the weight of injustices and outrages by the strong against the weak?

What is Pakistan to do when it sees its archenemy India, with all its hatred and covetousness and its occupation of Kashmir and its subjugation of more than 80 million Moslems, arming itself with atomic claws?

What are the Arabs to do when they see President Ford giving the arsenal of Israeli occupation of Palestine the most modern, advanced, most destructive American weaponry? When they know that their enemy is on the verge of acquiring atomic weapons which they could never actually possess?

In short, we want to say that all the American plans to prevent the proliferation of the nuclear terror can never completely succeed until American foreign policy becomes liberated from domination by pressure groups, so that it might take a new, more humane and just course and made a radical effort to move away from its present support for the most bestial injustices and its securing of the most repugnant forms of racist occupation and colonialist violation of Palestine. The day America regains its true independence, the candidate for president of the greatest country will not stand begging for Jewish votes, making deals to support Israel, and striving for the seat of the presidency by pleasing Tel Aviv.

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CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-MADINAH REMINDS CARTER THAT ARABS CONTROL THEIR OWN POLICIES

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 4 Nov 76 p 7

[Editorial by AL-MADINAH: "Carter and the Arabs"]

[Text] Last night's American presidential elections resulted in Democratic Party Candidate Jimmy Carter's victory over his Republican opponent, current President Gerald Ford.

These elections had witnessed a most violent struggle between two candidates for a long time, ever since the beginning of the primaries.

Both the Democratic and Republican candidates underwent a great deal before obtaining their respective party's nominations for the elections. Both current President Ford and President-elect Carter met with extreme hardships before they even became their party candidates for the presidential elections.

Thus it was plain from the beginning that neither man was a sure-win horse for his party.

Therefore, these last elections were characterized by many predictions and a murky outlook with respect to everything.

The many polls conducted by statistical institutes specializing in taking public opinion were also quite variable and contradictory.

At the end of the primary battle for nominations, which resulted in Gerald Ford's winning the Republican party nomination and Jimmy Carter's winning the Democratic party nomination, the presidential elections began, and both candidates entered them exhausted, basically from the intra-party struggle into which they had plunged to gain the nomination.

Since neither candidate, as we have said earlier, was the man clearly preferred by his party, he had to make double efforts, within his own party and then among the voters in general.

Therefore, the fluid state, the instability, and the unclear outlook continued, and the public opinion polls of American voters continued to give a different prediction each day. In fact, it became quite customary for public opinion polls with differing results to be published in the papers the same day, with one poll's saying that one candidate would win and a second poll's saying that the other man would win.

In addition to both candidates' lack of a clearcut political power, the personalities of both candidates had their part in the instability and cloudy outlook.

Ford, a clear thinker speaking from a position of responsibility, faced Carter, a voluble talker and statement maker, and many people held against Carter his imprecision in quoting figures and dealing with matters. Neither man has won a sufficient share of the voting public's esteem.

Even in the final moments before the elections, vacillation and changeability characterized the public opinion polls. The preponderance of one candidate over the other was no more than an insignificant percentage, usually less than the number of fingers on one hand. The result was actually a very slight difference in the percentage of Carter's victory. He got only slightly more than 51 percent, while Ford got only slightly less than 42 percent.

Whatever the result, this is the opinion of the American voter and his will in how the affairs of his country are run.

There remains an important question--whither American policy?

There is no doubt that the American president inescapably imprints on his country's foreign and domestic policy a specific character in one way or another.

It is known that there are high federal agencies which draw up America's domestic and foreign policy over a long range of 20 years, and that some modifications will be introduced into this long range plan between now and later in accordance with circumstances and phenomena--as well as presidential directives.

It is also known that America's welfare and higher interests determine this or that trend, especially in foreign issues, and that there can be no departure from this plan except for higher interests as well.

Here we come to an important question--what about Carter and the Arabs?

We say plainly, in frank words which can have only one meaning and interpretation, that neither Ford nor Carter, or any other president of America or any other country, can have any effect on Arab policies, be this man a friend of the Arabs or an enemy. The entire situation depends on us ourselves. We Arabs, by our unity of word and agreement on goal and our

standing shoulder to shoulder in a single rank in order to attain this goal by adopting brotherhood, solidarity and loyalty as a means, are able to say yes or no to the entire world, depending on the requirements of our higher self interest and self-reliance.

The question, Arabs, depends on us, be the American president who he may and his policy what it may.

8559

CSO: 4802

SUDAN

PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS FACTORY TO START PRODUCTION

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 16 Nov 76 p 10

[Interview with Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad 'Abdallah, Chairman of Board of Directors of Prefabricated Buildings Factory, by 'Abd-al-Rahman Hasan]

[Text] The vast construction and development programs included in the current five-year plan and in the coming six-year plan to construct plants, office buildings, houses and other buildings, the conventional construction process which causes the loss of both time and money, the increasing need for buildings and other factors, such as the emigration of skilled labor and similar factors, have made it necessary to think seriously of a solution to this problem. This is how the idea of a prefabricated buildings factory came into existence in 1975.

Concerning the beginning of this idea, Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad 'Abdallah, the chairman of the factory's board of directors and its general director, has said that the idea of this factory began a long time ago. However, serious thought concerning the establishment of the factory for building prefabricated houses began in August 1975. The thought of this factory probably resulted from several reasons, the first being the migration of large numbers of skilled workers and others from the country and this created difficulty in finding labor. The problems of labor and the unavailability of workers added to the difficulties inherent in the conventional methods of construction which take a very long time. We also expected that the six-year plan would include big projects that would require quick implementation. Therefore, an alternative had to be found for the conventional methods and an economic method that would save time and money and that would not require large numbers of workers had to be found also. I should point out here that the factory will be run by only 300 skilled workers and other workers and this is a very small number. Studies had been previously conducted by a German firm, in cooperation with a number of engineers in the Ministry of Public Works with economic and technical experience, on the possibility of building such a factory. However, the current company undertaking the project has conducted a number of studies on the project, has been convinced of its feasibility and has achieved definite technical results that map out the project's course of action. The Public Building and Construction Organization

has signed an agreement valued at one million dollars with the German company (Bitunfric Ayrins Thausun). The sum will be shared equally by the organization and the firm (50 percent each). The agreement does not spell out the final cost of the project but when the factory is completed it is expected that the final cost will amount to 10-12 million Deutschemarks.

The factory will produce at the outset 50,000 square meters of prefabricated buildings and its maximum production capacity will amount to 100,000 square meters. In the case of prefabricated buildings, the foundations are dug and constructed in the conventional method while the walls and other structures are built and installed by the factory according to specification. The various parts are made ready at the factory and they are then gathered and assembled at the construction site. The installation is done automatically and takes very little time. I should point out here the speed with which construction proceeded at the Friendship Hall of the People's Assembly and al-Nilayn mosque in Omdurman, even though the prefabricated construction method has not been completed yet--meaning that it is still a mixture of the conventional methods and the parts manufactured at the plant.

Answering a question on the ability of the factory to meet the capital's needs and to supply its products to the provinces, especially since the road network that the factory needs for transporting its heavy products does not reach most parts of the country, 'Abdallah said that the economic aspect of the factory relies fundamentally on distances. This is why we find that the firms producing such plants usually conduct studies after which they determine the maximum radius within which their production can be marketed. The first objective of the factory will be to meet the government needs and the requirements of the development programs that are centered mainly in Khartoum. But we must meet the needs of the provinces in the future. We point out here the importance of paved roads in regard to the effectiveness of the factory and to its ability to market its products in the remote parts of the country. But we will first concentrate on meeting the needs of the state and of the housing authority. This does not at all mean that the factory's production should not reach any part of Sudan, if it is economical to do so. For example, the Hajar 'Asalayah Plant requires the construction of 600 homes simultaneously. These homes have the same specifications and this facilitates the production process. We may be able to reach any part of the country that has such big projects with uniform specifications, such as housing complexes in big plants. As for the ability of the ordinary citizen to benefit from the factory, I should point out that the government is the testing stone through which the picture becomes clear to the ordinary citizen. The citizen may be convinced of the value of prefabricated houses when he finds that the government owns such buildings. We have no statistics to rely on insofar as the market need is concerned. Moreover, the private capital should also be convinced of the economic advantage of the new method of construction, which saves a lot of time, over the old method of construction.

A building which costs 100,000 pounds and takes 3 years to build in the conventional method may cost the same sum when the new method of construction

is employed. However, only one year is needed to complete the building and thus the new method saves 2 years from which the building owner can benefit. This is the economic advantage of the new method, in addition to the fact that the [conventional] construction materials are not available at present.

On the factory's ability to engage in other industries connected with prefabricated buildings, 'Abdallah explained that there is no such thinking at present. However, we may engage in the production of some kinds of brick, as I have already stated. The factory has a great impact and it will succeed in building plants, workshops, health complexes and other big complexes with uniform specifications. Such complexes require large numbers of doors and windows. By exploiting the local wood products and other products and through cooperation and coordination with the Forests Authority in this respect, we may be able to export our products, and not just meet the local demand, in the final stages of the project.

2. In addition to the information about the prefabricated buildings factory, the board of directors chairman and the general director has also told us that the equipment for the brick plant has already been received by the Public Construction and Building Organization and that the expert who will supervise the construction of the plant will arrive next month. The need has called for the construction of this plant which will be used as an initial experiment in whose light we will import a number of similar plants. The varied sizes and dimensions of the bricks available currently do not help, from the technical and economic aspects, the speedy construction of buildings. This motivated the Ministry of Finance and Planning to issue recently a law pertaining to the brick industry and to the specifications of bricks. The factory will abide by this law. Production will be done by machines and the plant capacity will be 5,000 bricks per hour. Maximum production will rely on the number of work hours in the plant. In the present stage, we will operate the plant for 10 hours daily so that it may produce about 12,500,000 bricks annually. The final cost of the project will amount to approximately 200,000 pounds. It is located in Dar al-Hidayah, the former site of the prisons brick plant, in al-Jarif. Work has already begun in laying the foundations and the plant's production in the current stage will be used to meet the needs of the Ministry of Public Works only.

In conclusion, let me point out that we seek to exploit to the maximum all kinds of local materials because of the country's urgent need for buildings. Because of the unavailability of the required quantities of cement, we may resort to the use of wood which has proven to be more effective than brick in Port Sudan.

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SUDAN

COUNTRY TO DEVELOP MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH UGANDA

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 21 Nov 76 p 2

[Article: "Joint Communique on Sudanese-Ugandan Talks"]

[Text] In response to an invitation by Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, His Excellency the President-for-Life, the Field Marshall, Doctor and al-Hajj Idi Amin Dada, the President of the Republic of Uganda, paid a working visit to Sudan in the period from 18 to 20 November 1976 for official talks with President Numayri and with the Sudanese officials for the purpose of strengthening the good relations existing between the two fraternal countries and for discussing the means to bolster them.

Participating in the talks on the Ugandan side were:

1. Brig Moses Ali, the minister of finance.
2. Paul (Etaniq), the minister of communications and transportation.
3. Maj [sic] Noah Mohamed, the minister of commerce.
4. (Jumba Masqazi), the minister of planning and economic development.
5. Brig (Luqiri), the private physician of his excellency the president of the republic.
6. (Omar Matar), the Ugandan charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

Participating on the Sudanese side were:

1. Dr Mansur Khalid, the presidential assistant for coordination and foreign affairs.
2. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah, the minister of public service and administrative reform.
3. Ma'mun Buhayri, the minister of finance, planning and national economy.

4. Dr Bashir 'Abbadì, the minister of communication and transport.
5. Mahjub Makkawi, the minister of foreign affairs.
6. Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali, the minister of defense and the people's armed forces general commander.
7. Harun al-'Awad, the minister of trade and supply.
8. Ahmad Badri, the minister of state for communication and transport.
9. Ibrahim Taha Ayyub, director of the Africa Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
10. Ambrose Wol, the Sudanese ambassador in Kampala.

The talks dealt with the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in all the fields. The two presidents also discussed the African, regional and international issues. Their views on them were in full agreement.

Concerning the bilateral relations, the two presidents--in observance of the spirit of African solidarity and of the OAU [Organization of African Unity] charter and to enhance the principle of solidarity and integration among the neighboring African countries--agreed to connect Uganda and Sudan through a network of roads, railroads and other means of communication, considering that they constitute an important factor in developing the economic and trade relations existing between the two countries and in increasing their volume. The two presidents have instructed the technicians [presumably meaning experts] in the various ministries and establishments in the two countries to explore the spheres of fruitful cooperation in this field.

In accordance with the instructions of the two presidents in this respect, technical committees met at a ministerial level to discuss the issues connected with developing the means of transportation and communication, to develop the economic relations and to encourage trade exchange between the two fraternal countries.

During his stay in Khartoum, President Idi Amin and his delegation toured all the development projects established in the Sudanese capital and expressed their admiration for them. President Amin lauded the numerous aspects of development being witnessed by the Democratic Republic of Sudan under the leadership of his brother, Numayri, and the Sudanese Socialist Union. President Amin and his delegation were also able to visit the city of Port Sudan and the great activity being witnessed by the city's port which reflects clearly and sincerely the degree of expansion achieved by Sudan's foreign trade.

President Amin expressed in his name and on behalf of his delegation to President Numayri and to the people and government of the Democratic

Republic of Sudan his sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality which he and his companions were accorded during their stay in Sudan.

At the end of his visit, President Idi Amin Dada invited President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to visit Uganda. President Numayri accepted the invitation thankfully and its date will be fixed later.

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SUDAN

MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE QUANTITY, QUALITY OF SUGAR

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 22 Nov 76 p 6

[Article by Mahjub Khayri: "A New Picture of Halfa al-Jadidah, Formerly Khashm al-Qirbah, Sugar Plant; Where Is the Attempt To Mechanize Agriculture Heading?"]

[Text] The sugar industry in Sudan entered a new stage with the establishment of the major plants after Halfa al-Jadidah and al-Junayd plants. I say the major plants because the two aforementioned plants are smaller than the new plants which have an enormous capacity, namely the western Sannar plant whose production has become to invade the markets and the Kinanah and Hajar 'Asalayah plants in which work has covered long strides.

The Oldest Sugar Plant in the Country

In Halfa al-Jadidah Sugar Plant, the oldest sugar factory in the country, we had an interview with Mubashshir Muhammad al-Hasan, the plant director, who spoke to us and answered the questions we addressed to him concerning the plant's production since its establishment and about the new expansion to raise its production, to improve its equipment and renew its youth and finally, about producing powdered [al-makanah] sugar for the first time.

He began his talk by saying: "The 1966-67 season was the first production season for Halfa al-Jadidah Sugar Plant and its production reached the maximum capacity of 60,000 tons [annually]. In the 1967-68 season, production exceeded the estimated maximum capacity and amounted to 62,800 tons. In the 1971-72 season, production amounted to 70,500 tons and in the 1972-73 season to 75,700 tons. From this review, it becomes obvious that the plant worked beyond its capacity in certain seasons. The plant did this with its own efforts and these efforts were needed to face the increase in the world sugar prices and to meet the country's needs of this important commodity. The increased production was at the expense of maintenance which is necessary for the equipment.

"With this excess, there was a relative drop in the 1975-76 production (600,000 tons approximately). There are certain things which we must mention

in addition to the excess which exhausted the machinery. These things include the drop in the productivity of the feddan due to the shortage of machinery for ploughing the land and the shortage of labor in the agricultural operations. Despite these negative aspects, I can assert that we are starting our new season with a new eager spirit and with ambition for a better standard by revolutionizing agricultural work and by following the modern method and by paying close attention to the agricultural operations such as ploughing and preparing the lands, weeding and other operations intended to raise the productivity of the feddan."

The New Expansion

Mubashshir Muhammad al-Hasan continued his talk, saying: "At present, work is in progress to implement the first stage of the new expansion with the help of (Bokawolfe) company whose experts are working with us at present."

The new expansion has three objectives. The first objective is to raise the plant's sugarcane [grinding] capacity from 4,000 tons to 5,000 tons daily. The second objective is to improve the plant's equipment and machinery so as to renew its youth and revive it and the third objective is to improve the qualities of the produced sugar to make it whiter and to produce powdered [al-makanah] sugar. The first stage began in May 1976 and it will be completed on 15 December, the day which coincides with the plant's new season. The plant will operate at its previous capacity of 4,000 tons of sugarcane daily. The second stage will be completed with the beginning of the next season, 1977-78, and the plant will operate at the new capacity of 5,000 tons daily.

Vertical Expansion

Now that an area of 21,406 feddans has been prepared for the cultivation of sugarcane which will be harvested in the new season, vertical expansion must be introduced to keep up with the horizontal expansion. Because there is no expansion in the area of the cultivated land, this should be countered by an increase in the productivity per feddan by following the modern agricultural methods, as we have already stated. We started this approach this season by planting the sugarcane seedlings by hand to make sure that every seedling is selected and is placed carefully in the right place so as to produce good sugarcane plants. Each seedling has three buds and each bud produces 9 to 10 canes. Moreover, care is needed in the irrigation, replanting and fertilization operations. If all these operations are carried out well, then the productivity will be good. Moreover, plant diseases and pests should be fought as soon as they appear. The plant now has a special section for protection and development. This section will be in contact with the agricultural research and pest control section in Halfa al-Jadidah and we will extend our hands to them to benefit from their research and findings in the aforementioned fields.

Agricultural Mechanization

The plant has a section for agricultural mechanization which has been separated [not mentioned from what] so as to find freedom of movement and to enhance productivity. The mechanization section has been put under the control of the agricultural section and we have thus achieved what we could not achieve in the past years. Though we are suffering from a shortage in machinery, the officials in the headquarters of the Sugar and Distilling Organization have expressed their interest and have exerted maximum efforts to supply the required equipment. We have in fact received a number of vehicles and heavy machinery and a number of trolleys and tractors will arrive shortly for the new season.

Solving the Problems of Agricultural Workers

To improve the general services for the workers, the plant management deemed it fit to combine the present 14 workers' housing complexes, which are dispersed over the sugarcane plantations, in three or four complexes. The present complexes lack the necessary facilities and 70,000 pounds have been allocated for a plan to provide them with the services that they need urgently, such as clean water and health services. The management has also deemed it necessary to move these families from their present areas of residence to al-Suq [the market] and to send their children to schools. Then the stage of building the complexes according to the studied plan will follow.

The recent tour of inspection by the minister of industry and minerals and his delegation had a good impact on us as workers in the plant. His visit to the various sections of the plant and to the workers houses had a far-reaching effect because the minister himself saw the way they live. His becoming aware of the situation will motivate us to improve this deep-rooted plant and to increase its production so that it may fully participate in developing Halfa al-Jadidah area, thus performing its great role and deserving the name given to it by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri--the Halfa al-Jadidah Sugar Plant.

This is how Mubashshir Muhammad al-Hasan, the director of Halfa al-Jadidah Sugar Plant, ended his conversation with us. We express to him our boundless thanks.

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SUDAN

BRIEFS

SUGAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION--Leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri will lay down next Thursday the cornerstone for the Kinanah Sugar Plant. This plant will be the biggest sugar production plant in Africa and the Arab area and the third **biggest** in the world in terms of size and production. A SUNA [Sudanese News Agency] report from Kosti says that preparations have been completed in Kosti area to receive the leader president on arrival at the project site, which is located south of Rabak on the eastern bank of the White Nile, next Thursday. SUNA reports that the Kinanah Sugar Plant will begin production in the 1977-78 season at a capacity of 50,000 tons annually which will increase to 220,000 tons in the 1978-79 season. The maximum production capacity will amount to 330,000 tons at the end of the first experimental stage. The 1980-85 period will witness implementation of the second stage of the project which will bring the plant's production capacity to one million tons annually and during which the plant will grind 17,000 tons of sugarcane daily. It is to be noted that the company's capital amounted to 40 million pounds in which the Arab Investments Firm, the (Lowenrau) Company, the Arab Fisheries Company, the Japanese (Tishu Iway) Joint-Stock Company and the Kuwaiti government participate, along with the Sudanese government and the Sudanese Development Organization. [Text] [Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 23 Nov 76 p 1] 8494

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TUNISIA

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE LESS 'APOCALYPTIC' UNDER CARTER

Tunis L'ACTION in French 10 Dec 76 p 8 LD

Article by Khaled Mongi Tebourbi: "American Diplomacy--End of the 'Step by Step' Policy"

Excerpt The first question to arise is what can be expected from Carter's new American administration? In what way could American policy be modified? What could it change? Obviously, even the most "radical" or "revolutionary" transformations would in no way call into question the fundamental principles of American society, with its traditional values and specific morality. The permanence of these values should also be remembered. With a few exceptions, the programs of the two great rival parties (Democratic and Republican) during the recent elections were very similar. In the eyes of the American electorate the question of the two candidates' personalities was probably of decisive importance. Generally speaking, this has always been the case in U.S. history. Because they have a majority in the Congress, the Democrats under Carter will have the means to pursue their policy. Undoubtedly, they do not lack political determination. Many heads of state envy Carter's situation in which he is free to pursue his policy because of the Democratic majority in the Congress. It remains to be seen whether the new **occupant** of the White House will take advantage of this situation both in the domestic and the foreign spheres.

Be that as it may, the president-elect does not appear to want to ask Kissinger for advice with respect to the decisions which he will have to make. It seems that during the coming 4 years the outgoing secretary of state is to play a purely consultative and apparently modest role. His main task will, therefore, be to open all his files to his successor Cyrus Vance. Nonetheless, Vance's own task will not be easy, considering the enormous difficulties American diplomacy will have to face--oil, north-south dialog, U.S.-European relations and, especially, Soviet-American and Washington-Peking relations and also certain urgent problems, including the Greek-Turkish dispute and problems in Asia and Africa. As Kissinger stated, "Mr Vance's success will be a success achieved by all Americans."

American diplomacy will probably be less bold but more reassuring, and Kissinger's apocalyptic visions of the world's future, which began to worry many of his fellow citizens just as his setbacks in Cyprus, Angola and elsewhere did, will probably not be shared by the new American administration.

CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

TUNISIAN, FRENCH MINISTERS PLEDGE CONTINUED MILITARY COOPERATION

Tunis L'ACTION in French 12 Dec 76 p 4 LD

Report on Tunisian National Defense Minister Farhat and French Defense Minister Bourges 10 December speeches: "Abdallah Farhat: Our Country Must Develop Secure From Hegemonies, Threats and Pressures"

Text On Friday night Abdallah Farhat stated that "Tunisia is prepared to make any sacrifice to acquire a credible and deterrent defense without jeopardizing it's economic growth rate which remains its first aim."

During a dinner given in honor of French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges, who is now on an official visit to Tunisia, at Dar-Maghrebia in Carthage, Abdallah Farhat assured his guest that "President Bourguiba has always placed Tunisia's relations with France above any historical vicissitudes." And he went on: "We are developing our armed forces not with a view to imposing on anyone either our ideas or some ideology but to enable our country to develop secure from hegemonies, threats and pressures.

"Our defense policy," he stated, "which is part of the framework of the task of preserving a free society, has been founded not only on a regular army but also on the mobilization and use--in the event of a crisis--of all the resources and the entire potential of the country through organizing a people's defense force, which will be especially credible because it is mainly based on the masses' desire for freedom and democracy; and in truth, Tunisia's defense is, therefore, a matter concerning all Tunisians."

Abdallah Farhat also expressed his satisfaction that "France, which can understand and appreciate our desire to protect our gains, our moral values and our national identity, has for a very long time participated in Tunisia's efforts in this sphere" and paid tribute to "all French officers and NCO's for their effective and positive contribution" to Tunisian efforts in the training and defense spheres.

However, the national defense minister stated that Tunisian-French military cooperation should be given a new impetus in order to measure up to the importance which France and Tunisia attach to the development of their relations. "Together with you we will spare no effort to develop this cooperation in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust," he stated in conclusion and expressed the hope that as a result of Yvon Bourges' visit to Tunisia, bilateral cooperation would develop and become commensurate with France's concern for political stability in the Mediterranean region." "We greatly appreciate this concern," he added.

Replying to his host's speech, the French defense minister assured Tunisia of the firmness and determination of French aid. Bourges stated that "everything, really everything, should encourage the Tunisian and French peoples and governments to act jointly because in the unsecure world we live in our two countries indeed share the same ideals and beliefs and are determined to jointly protect the values to which they are attached."

"Tunisia's efforts aimed at development made under the leadership and impetus of President Bourguiba, who has been assisted by competent and courageous men, cannot fail to attract our attention and sympathy," the French minister stated, emphasizing that it is really a case of an "example given by Tunisia" to which the French people have been responsive because they are "attached to democracy, freedom, respect for the individual and the values on which our civilization--of which Tunisia constitutes a very remarkable exponent on African soil--is founded."

After mentioning the special links established between Tunisia and France "by the past, history and geography" the minister stated that the two peoples feel extremely close to each other.

Later, Bourges mentioned "the unrest which prevails on our planet and the threats hanging over countries such as ours despite the fact that they are so peace-loving." And he added: "Acting jointly, we can do a great deal to safeguard our own identities and protect our ideals with a view to insuring together, in friendship and through useful and effective cooperation that our bilateral ties are strengthened, thus contributing to the maintenance of the equilibrium necessary to insure world peace."

In conclusion, the national defense minister's official guest assured Farhat of "the firmness and determination of France's friendship for Tunisia."

CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

CHATTI REVIEWS FOREIGN POLICY ON SUBMITTING MINISTRY BUDGET

Tunis L'ACTION in French 18 Dec 76 p 6 LD

Report on Foreign Minister Habib Chatti 17 December National Assembly Speech: "We Are Striving Further To Develop Our Relations With the Fraternal Arab Countries"

Text During its afternoon session the National Assembly discussed the Foreign Ministry budget.

Answering questions put to him by deputies, Habib Chatti discussed the following subjects:

The Maghreb--The Arab Greater Maghreb region, he stated, has for some time been the scene of tensions and crises which cannot inspire optimism in anyone--at least for the foreseeable future--as to the building of Maghreb unity. The political atmosphere is unfavorable to this task.

Referring to this subject, the minister stated that the problem of Sahara had at one time affected relations between Tunisia and its sister Algeria. He emphasized that the passing clouds which had darkened these relations had rapidly scattered to the two countries' mutual satisfaction. Our relations have now become normal again, as shown by Foreign Minister as published Chedli Klibi's recent visit to Algiers.

Tunisian-Libyan relations: Referring to Tunisian-Libyan relations, which were mentioned by several deputies, Habib Chatti stated that they have undergone a change mainly as a result of the problem of the continental shelf.

Two meetings took place in Tripoli and Tunis with a view to preparing a joint document for the tribunal to which the two countries had decided to submit their dispute. However, during the Tripoli meeting, the Libyan delegation submitted a draft document asking the international court of justice to indicate to the two parties the international laws applicable to their dispute. The Libyan plan provided for talks to be held with a

view to implementing these laws. The Tunisian delegation rejected this plan on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the spirit of the Tunis declaration which stipulated that the aim of the appeal to The Hague court was arbitration and not consultation.

Finally, Tunisia and Libya agreed to hold a third meeting this month. However, Tunisia cannot see any point in convening the joint technical commission since this is essentially a political problem and, as such, requires a political decision by the two governments.

Referring to the situation of the Tunisians who have been detained in Libya, Habib Chatti stated that this problem has not yet been solved. Tunisia, he explained, has demanded that any exchange of prisoners include all Tunisians held in Libya, including the businessman Raouf M'Henni and all the Libyans who were arrested in Tunisia for sabotage activities.

The minister indicated that the Libyan authorities have agreed to release the Tunisian soldiers taken as hostages in exchange of the release of Libyan prisoners, but Tunisia has demanded that businessman Raouf M'Henni and other civilian prisoners be released first.

Lebanon--The Lebanese problem is a result of a Zionist colonialist plot through which Israel has managed to set a trap for the Arabs who have shown a pitiful lack of maturity. Tunisia has been the only Arab country to warn all concerned against this Zionist colonialist plot which could clearly be discerned in the Lebanese tragedy.

The Near East conflict--the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza is now being mentioned. An idea launched by President Bourguiba in Jericho more than 10 years ago has thus finally been gaining ground. This means that the creation of a Palestinian state is no longer a dream, since even Israel appears to concur. In fact, Tel Aviv has for the first time asked that the Geneva conference be reconvened. However, it withdrew its demand when amendments aimed at insuring the Palestinians' participation in the conference were proposed.

Chatti stated that it would be unrealistic to say that the year 1977 would see the solution of all problems. However, the process leading toward this goal will be started during the coming year.

Habib Chatti also emphasized the existence of good relations between Tunisia and the fraternal Arab countries, adding that our cooperation with these countries is of considerable importance and that we are striving to further develop it to the satisfaction of all concerned. Tunisia would especially like to see Arab participation in the financing of its development projects, which is already considerable, increase. The Arab countries which have already been approached with this end in mind (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq) have declared that they are willing to comply with Tunisia's wishes.

Inter-Arab cooperation--Chatti stated that President Bourguiba had the intention of proposing the convening of a summit Arab conference whose agenda would be exclusively devoted to the study of inter-Arab financial and economic cooperation, but that as a result of the deterioration of relations between certain Arab countries in recent years, we had to postpone the implementation of this plan. Now that inter-Arab relations have improved, we intend to propose the convening of this summit, considering the advantages which could accrue to the Arabs as a result of such cooperation, which would be preferable to depositing Arab funds in the banks of developed countries which use them to their own advantage.

Replying to a question put to him by a deputy who had asked him to explain the decision that French nationals entering Tunisia would no longer be required to show their passports, Chatti stated that the aim of this measure is to develop tourism in Tunisia by simplifying entry formalities.

We require nationals of certain countries to have visas and nationals of other countries to produce passports only for strictly technical reasons.

We have accorded special privileges to French nationals because they represent the most numerous group of tourists and businessmen and, furthermore, we have nothing to fear from them.

As for reciprocity, we have not asked for it because it would not be to our advantage.

Following Chatti's speech, the deputies adopted the Foreign Ministry budget.

CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO UPPER VOLTA--On 15 December Tunisian Ambassador to Upper Volta Ferid Soudani presented his credentials to President Lamizana. [Tunis L'ACTION in French 17 Dec 76 p 32 LD]

FRANCE'S BOURGES' VISIT TO TUNISIA--Yvon Bourges, French defense minister, this morning left Tunis. He favorably describes his stay in our country as very important. He notes that Tunisia has decided to double its effort in the military field as well as its economic development. France, one of many countries friendly to Tunisia, is called upon to give its contribution towards that effort within the framework of Tunisian-French military cooperation. He adds: France's contribution will have two aspects. The first is aid in training the cadres of the Tunisian Army at a high level. Thus 235 Tunisian officers and noncommissioned officers are currently being trained in France. They include three at the high school of staff. The second aspect of French military aid to Tunisia relates to equipment, in connection with which Yvon Bourges says his visit has made preparations for French aid to Tunisia. The guest minister was seen off by his counterpart Abdullah Farhat; Ahmed Bennour, secretary of state for national defense; the French ambassador to Tunis; and a number of Tunisian Army senior officers. [Text] [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 76 LD]

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON YUGOSLAV TELEVISION--Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this afternoon granted an interview to Milivoje Markovic, editor in chief of Yugoslav television in the presence of Mohamed Masmoudi. The prime minister answered questions on the policy of the economic and social development of Tunisia. In particular he discussed the objectives of the Fifth Plan as well as topics on international politics, including European and Mediterranean security, the prospects for a settlement of the Middle East conflict and the political coordination of the nonaligned countries in various fields. [Text] [Tunis Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 14 Dec 76 LD]

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END